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STATE FOR WHA/CAN, IO/T (L. Tobey) EB/CIP/TS (D. May)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [ECPS](#) [EU](#) [EWWT](#) [IMO](#) [INMARSAT](#) [KHLs](#) [CA](#)

SUBJ: Canada's Views on American IMSO DG Candidate Steven Lett

Ref: State 140757

11. Sensitive but Unclassified, do not release outside USG channels.
12. (SBU) EMIN delivered diplomatic note/demarche (reftel) on August 28 to Santiago Reyes-Borda, who will be the GoC's Head of Delegation to the September 25 through 29 Assembly of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO). Reyes-Borda noted Lett's "excellent" qualifications and noted that he had worked often with Lett in various multilateral fora. He commented that Canada is "very, very pleased that Steven is a candidate" and added that Canada is "looking forward to working in IMSO with Mr. Lett's direction".
Comment: Reading between the lines is not difficult, and we conclude that Canada is very favorably disposed towards the American candidate. End comment.
13. (SBU) Nevertheless, at this juncture, the GoC is not yet willing to formally and openly endorse one candidate over another. Reyes-Borda indicated that Canada will likely declare its preference only just prior the start of the Assembly. Reyes-Bordas told us he is consulting with Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard; he added that Steven Lett is a familiar and well-regarded name among his interlocutors in those departments. Embassy subsequently delivered the diplomatic note/demarche in reftel to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, although that department is not substantively involved in IMSO matters.
14. (SBU) Reyes-Borda told EMIN that Canada and the USA see eye-to-eye on most issues at IMSO, especially that the IMSO should be a trim and efficient organization that does not interfere with domestic policy. Reyes-Borda indicated that Canada is concerned with the future oversight role by IMSO of "Long Range Tracking and Identification" (LRTI) activities, indicating that the United States (in particular the Coast Guard) shares Canada's concerns. He also expressed Canada's views that the IMSO Advisory Committee needs to be strengthened and that the IMSO needs to become less of a "Director General driven" body, but rather must become more "administration-driven".
15. (U) Santiago Reyes-Borda is the Senior Advisor, International Telecommunications Policy and Coordination at Industry Canada. The other member of the Canadian delegation at the IMSO Assembly will be Sam Ryan, Project Manager, Navigation Systems at Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

DICKSON